



VOTER

May 2023

www.lwv-bf.org

President's Message ~ Beverly Johnson-Torelli

For me, writing this message is bittersweet because it symbolizes the fact that I will no longer be LWVBF President after the Annual Meeting. It has been my privilege and honor to serve all of you for the past three years. I am so thankful for the Board members, both elected and appointed, who have served with me through that time. I would also like to thank each League member for being part of the organization and contributing along the way. Concurrently, I'm excited to see the slate of nominees that will be presented at the Annual Meeting. The League can look forward to strong officers and elected Board members with many new ideas. They will take the reins on May 18 midway through the Annual Meeting. It will be held at CG Public House, 9221 West Clearwater in Kennewick at 6:00pm., and we will be ordering off the menu. In addition, the two \$1,000.00 Marilyn Perkins Scholarship Awards will be presented under new business. The students' parents will be invited, and John Perkins will be in attendance. Best wishes, and I'll see you there! **(Please RSVP to Bev by Tuesday, May 16 at sasjoh@aol.com or (509) 521-0947 if you plan to attend.)**

At our last Board Meeting, we had a discussion regarding being a non-partisan organization. In the meantime, Judy Golberg came across the following article and passed it on. The article clearly explains the League's position. You will find it interesting and very helpful.

<https://www.lwv.org/blog/remaining-nonpartisan-hyper-partisan-times>

May 4-7 LWVWA Convention at the Holiday Inn Express in Pasco -Many thanks to the members who will be volunteering at this event. It is greatly appreciated! (FYI- Meals can be purchased separately, even if you don't plan to attend Convention as a whole, or if you are a volunteer but would like to eat a meal(s). Lunches are \$32.00 and dinners are \$35.00. Go to lwvwa.org and click on registration. The boxed lunch on Friday at noon is the only one that is predetermined. All the other meals will be buffet style.) Also, one day registration is available, either Friday- \$170.00 or Saturday -\$175.00.

May 15- 19 Candidates file for local offices, such as City Council and School Board. Since redistricting occurred, our area now includes the 8, 9, 15, and 16 Legislative Districts. As soon as we know who has filed, we will begin working on the Candidate Forums. The Primary Election will include positions that have three or more people running for office.

June 15– The first LWVBF Board meeting with the new officers

July – The Candidate Forums will be aired. The dates are TBD.

Treasurer’s Report ~ Shirley Sonnichsen

As of April 18, 2023:

Checking is:	\$7,425.01
Savings is:	\$1,857.03
Total:	\$9,282.04

Income: **\$1,700.00**

We received \$150.00 in dues and \$50.00 in donations. \$1,500.00 was received for the Civics Education Dance Project.

Expenses: **\$21.73**

\$21.73 was paid to Just Host for our League’s domain name.

Membership and Dues: We currently have 85 members, including 8 students, and 9 second-in-household members.

2023 Convention: Beverley Johnson-Torelli, Diane Molleson, and Wendy Espinosa, will attend the State convention as delegates. We are hosting the convention in Pasco May 4-7. Karen Miller, Martha Swedlund, and Chuck Torelli will attend as Observers. The registration fee is \$260.00 and early bird registration ends April 18th.

Ed Fund: Our State Ed Fund dollars should be \$12,590.00. We received a \$75.00 check from Jane Sereda which went to our State Ed Fund. We have received the \$1,500.00 for the Civics Ed Fund grant. \$2,100.00 will be taken out for this year’s scholarship.

Membership, Engagement and Leadership Development ~ Leona Hassing

MELD pod #4 met at the monthly Zoom meeting in late March with five in attendance. Three representatives from Kitsap, Thurston and Benton-Franklin counties, the pod facilitator from Mason and LWVWA President, Lunell Haught.

Each rep told of the key accomplishments in their units over the last month. Topics included, but not limited to Tribal affairs, scholarships, DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion), and maintaining membership.

President Lunell talked about activities with the State League. She was very excited about the upcoming Convention in the Tri-Cities, noting the quality workshops, the extra activities available for the attendees and just members meeting together for the convention. The discussion topic for this month was -- Advocacy Now and Beyond -- how might your Local League encourage member engagement during and after the legislative session? Among ways discussed were attending town hall meetings, maintaining a personal contact with your legislators, becoming familiar with local city councils and county commissions, establishing an Observer Corp. Information about Observer Corp can be found on the League website under member resources.

LWVWA Advocacy Report ~ Lora Rathbone

The 2023 WA Legislative Session has ended and there is a lot to celebrate! Thank you for all the ways you participated. It does make a difference when we work together.

Here is a note from the LWVWA: “There will be a final Legislative newsletter on April 30, containing some summary (and celebratory!) information. And then a final-final note identifying bills that the Governor has signed or vetoed. This will be mid-May, since the Governor has a period of time after the end of session to decide about signing bills that have been passed by the legislature. Thanks so much for your valued and consequential participation this session—it matters, and it counted!”

These are the bills the LWVWA supported. **Please send a note to your legislator to thank them if they supported one of these bills.**

Democracy: See descriptions of the bills [HERE](#).

Bills that have been signed by the Governor and are now law:

HB 1048- Enhanced WA voting Rights. Effective date 1/1/2024. All 8,9,15,16 LD Senators and Reps voted no.

SB 5082- **Abolish Advisor Votes**. Effective date 7/23/2023. All 8,9,15,16 LD Senators and Reps voted no.

Bills that will become law when the Governor signs them:

SB 5112 - Updating the voter registration process. All 8,9,15,16th LD Senators and Reps voted no.

SB 5208 - Updating the online voter registration process. All 8,9,15,16th LD Senators and Reps voted no.

HB 1317 - Concerning grassroots lobbying disclosure. all 8,9,15,16th LD Senators and Reps voted no

For further information on bills see the attached advocacy file.

LWVBF Book Club -Polly Parton

Join us Monday May 8 (on ZOOM) at 6pm for a discussion of *The Worst Hard Time* by Timothy Egan, the story of those who survived the environmental disaster known as the Great American Dust Bowl during the Great Depression.

April's book was *Snow Child* by Eowyn Ivey. This magical story of homesteaders Jack and Mabel as a struggling, childless couple is set in 1920's Alaska. The toll of harsh work and loneliness takes a crushing toll until unexpectedly, a child arrives on their doorstep. It was a pleasure to read.

In June we will discuss *Beloved* by Toni Morrison. Published in 1987, the novel tells the story of a dysfunctional family of formerly enslaved people and it won a Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. Join in a great hour of discussion by emailing or texting Polly Parton to be added to the Zoom link. polly.parton@yahoo.com or 509-551-3818.

LWVBF Slate of Officers and Nominating Committee ~ Christine Grantham

May 2023- May 2024

OFFICERS:

President: Diane Molleson
1st Vice President: Peggy Gregory
2nd Vice President: Wendy Espinosa
Secretary: Carla Chiotti
Treasurer: Shirley Sonnichsen

Immediate Past President-Beverly Johnson-Torelli

ELECTED DIRECTORS:

JoAnne Dimond
Leona Hassing
Karen Miller
Janet Nail
Polly Parton
Lora Rathbone

SUBMITTED BY 2023 NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Carla Chiotti
JoAnne Dimond
Judy Golberg
Ruvine Jimenez
Karen Miller
Christine Grantham – Committee Chair

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 1, 10:00am ~ Naturalization Ceremony, Federal Building Richland

May 4-7 ~ LWVWA Convention, Holiday Inn Express Pasco

May 15-19 ~ Candidate filing for local office

May 18, 6:00pm. ~ Annual Meeting at CG Public House

June 15, 6:00pm. ~ Zoom Business/ Planning Meeting with new officers

July ~ Candidate Forums/Debates. Dates TBD

August 1 ~ Primary Election

lwv.of.bf@gmail.com

Mailing Address:

League of Women Voters of Benton
and Franklin Counties
P.O.Box 765
Richland, WA 99352

OFFICERS:

President: Beverly Johnson-Torelli
1st Vice President: Polly Parton
2nd Vice President: Karen Miller
Secretary: Diane Molleson
Treasurer: Shirley Sonnichsen

ELECTED DIRECTORS:

Bree Bowen
JoAnne Dimond
Wendy Espinosa
Ruvine Jimenez
Janet Nail
Lora Rathbone

APPOINTED DIRECTORS:

Christine Grantham
Peggy Gregory, Voter Editor
Leona Hassing
Sabiha Khan

VOTER EDITOR:

Peggy Gregory